$\frac{-}{\underline{}}$  de maximis, inc.

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January 15, 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL

Ms. Stephanie Vaughn
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 32 – December 2009
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/
Feasibility Study (RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009

Dear Ms. Vaughn:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement.

# (a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

### Meetings/Conference Calls

- On December 10, CPG Modeling Team participated in the Semi-Annual EPA/CPG Modeling Meeting.
- On December 14, EPA instructed CPG to stop analyzing Benthic QAPP sediment grab samples for PCDD/PCDF; CPG complied with the instruction.

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- On December 15, CPG provided EPA with a status of the PCDD/PCDF data for the Benthic QAPP sediment grab split samples and a comparison of EPA Method 1613B SOPs for the CPG and EPA oversight labs.
- On December 16, EPA told CPG to continue work on the extracted Benthic QAPP sediment grab samples for PCDD/PCDF analysis.
- On December 17, CPG, EPA, and EPA contractors held a conference call to discuss the EPA Low Resolution Coring (LRC) Program Split Sediment Sample PCDD/PCDF data and comparison of EPA Method 1613B SOPs utilized by CPG and EPA labs.
- On December 17, EPA told CPG to continue work on the unextracted Benthic QAPP sediment grab samples for PCDD/PCDF analysis.
- On December 18, CPG and EPA held a conference call to discuss a Winter Fish Community Survey and the draft CPG Fish/Crab Tissue Compositing and Analysis Plan.

#### **Correspondence**

- On December 1, EPA provided copies of its oversight lab sample preparation SOPs to CPG.
- On December 4, CPG submitted a Physical Water Column Monitoring (PWCM) QAPP Addendum for a spring 2010 survey that included Newark Bay (NB) locations and wet weather sampling to EPA.
- On December 15, CPG submitted the November Progress Report to EPA.
- On December 22, EPA provided suggested meeting elements for a sediment stability meeting to CPG.

#### Work

- CPG completed the PWCM fall 2009 survey.
- CPG conducted a reconnaissance survey of potential PWCM mooring locations in Newark Bay for the spring 2010 survey.
- CPG continued drafting the LRC data summary report which includes a
  description of the field activities, submittal of field records, analytical data
  results and presentation and summary of data validation results.
- CPG Modeling Team continued work on the LPR/NB Sediment Transport using a version of SIT-SEDZL-J.
- CPG continued reviewing the NB physical water column monitoring data collected by Sommerfield and Chant.



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- CPG continued planning activities for the Chemical Water Column Monitoring (CWCM) QAPP.
- CPG continued preparation of Risk Assessment Tech Memos as requested by EPA in comments on the approved Problem Formulation Document, Fish/Crab Tissue and Benthic QAPPs.
- CPG reviewed preliminary data received on Benthic QAPP sediment grab samples at the request of EPA.
- CPG initiated planning for a Winter Fish Community Survey and preparation of the related addendum to the 2009 Fish/Crab Tissue QAPP.

#### (b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- Copies of lab EDD files that were received in November 2009 from the PWCM program were posted to the PREmis web portal on December 15.
- Sediment porewater salinity data collected during the 2009 Benthic Sampling Survey were transmitted to EPA on December 17.

# (c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue planning activities for the spring 2010 deployment of the PWCM program.
- CPG will initiate review of the fall 2009 PWCM data.
- CPG will continue planning activities for the CWCM QAPP.
- CPG will complete preparation of the LRC data summary report.
- CPG will participate in a meeting with the EPA to discuss sediment stability.
- CPG Modeling Team will continue work on the LPR/NB Sediment Transport Model.
- CPG will meet with EPA to discuss and finalize the Fish/Crab Tissue Compositing and Analysis Plan.
- CPG will initiate review and validation of Benthic QAPP data.
- CPG will continue preparation of Risk Assessment Tech Memos as requested by EPA in comments on the approved Problem Formulation Document, Fish/Crab Tissue and Benthic QAPPs.
- CPG will conduct a Winter Fish Community Survey.



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- (d) <u>Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.</u>
  - No problems encountered.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Rob Law at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.

Willard F. Potter Project Coordinator

cc: Pat Hick, EPA Office of Regional Counsel Alice Yeh, EPA
William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel Lisa Baron, USACE
Tim Kubiak, USFWS
Reyhan Mehran, NOAA
Janine MacGregor, NJDEP
Elkins Green, NJDOT
Laura Kelmar, AECOM